

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 637

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to honor Senior Master Sergeant Keith B. Boyd, Tennessee Air National Guard, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing a true patriot who has proudly served the United States of America and the State of Tennessee with selfless devotion to duty for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt) Keith B. Boyd has rendered loyal and astute service as the First Sergeant for the 45th Weapons of Mass Destruction–Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) located in Smyrna, serving as the key advisor to the Commander and the unit's non-commissioned officer in charge; and

WHEREAS, since becoming the team's fourth First Sergeant in 2017, SMSgt Boyd has provided its members and their families with excellent support, care, and leadership, while displaying an exceptional ability to balance State and federal requirements levied upon the unit; and

WHEREAS, SMSgt Boyd has provided sound advice to his command team, imparting knowledge imperative to successful decision making, and he has utilized his technical knowledge to train and equip both soldiers and airmen for victory in the field; and

WHEREAS, as First Sergeant, he has adroitly led the WMD-CST to the successful completion of more than 100 operational missions, including Hurricane Gustav, Hurricane Irene, the West Virginia-Elk River Contamination Incident, Hawaii Tsunami, numerous fires in the State of Tennessee, and a major ricin incident; and

WHEREAS, after nineteen years with the 45th WMD-CST, SMSgt Boyd is taking his much-deserved retirement from military service on August 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, SMSgt Boyd previously served as Operations/Modeling NCO for the WMD-CST, in which position he was the unit's primary specialist for hazard prediction plume modeling and the key advisor to the Commander on downwind evacuation of civilian personnel; and

WHEREAS, he concurrently served as the team's budgetary specialist, managing an annual budget of more than \$500,000 and receiving the "Band of Excellence" for his stellar work in budgeting on numerous occasions; and

WHEREAS, SMSgt Boyd began his exemplary career with the 45th Civil Support Team when he accepted a position as its Communication Team Chief in 2002; as the initial section leader, he was instrumental in the team passing a Congressionally mandated inspection that led to its certification as a national asset in response to the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction; and

WHEREAS, SMSgt Boyd began his military career in 1986 as an Information Systems Specialist with the Tennessee Air National Guard and was assigned to the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; and

WHEREAS, during this time, he deployed in support of Desert Shield/Storm and Operation Restore Hope (Somalian Famine Relief Effort) and spent time in and around the former Yugoslavia in support of Operation Joint Endeavor/Guard; and

WHEREAS, SMSgt Boyd has received the Meritorious Service Medal, three Air Force Commendation Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, two Humanitarian Service Medals, the NATO Medal, both Kuwait Liberation Medals, and various other awards and decorations during his outstanding career with the Tennessee Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS, he received his Associate of Applied Science degree in Information Systems from the Community College of the Air Force and graduated *cum laude* from Middle

Tennessee State University, from which he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Technology; and

WHEREAS, throughout his thirty-five-year tenure with the Tennessee Air National Guard, SMSgt Boyd has set a standard for effective leadership and personal excellence that we would all do well to emulate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Senior Master Sergeant Keith B. Boyd, Tennessee Air National Guard, for his meritorious service with the 45th Weapons of Mass Destruction–Civil Support Team and the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness during his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.